

Message Text

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O R 211050Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5112

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA:

MEETING WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADORS

REF: LUSAKA 973

1. WHILE PROPOSED MEETING WITH SECRETARY CONTAINED REFTEL WOULD BE MOST GRATIFYING AND USEFUL FROM A PERSONAL STANDPOINT, I HAVE CERTAIN RESERVATIONS ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY IT AS FAR AS SOUTH AFRICA IS CONCERNED. ALSO I DO NOT KNOW HOW PROPOSED STATEMENT WOULD DOVETAIL WITH MAJOR POLICY SPEECH WHICH I UNDERSTAND SECRETARY IS TO GIVE IN LUSAKA. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AT LEAST IN SOME RESPECTS THE TWO WOULD BE DUPLICATIVE AND MIGHT THUS DETRACT FROM EACH OTHER.

2. SOUTH AFRICANS ARE AT PRESENT IN PARTICULARLY BRUISED MOOD. FAILURE OF THE "WESTERN COUNTRIES" (READ US) TO BLOCK UNSC RESOLUTION BRANDING SOUTH AFRICA AS AGGRESSOR IN ANGOLA AND CALLING FOR REPARATIONS HIGHLY RESENTED. FAILURE OF SECRETARY TO INCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA ON HIS TRIP AND REASONS GIVEN IN WASHINGTON FOR NON-INCLUSION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR HURE. IF MY PRESENCE AT VICTORIA FALLS MEETING IS DESIGNED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR A VISIT, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD NOT REGARD IT AS SUCH UNLESS PERHAPS I WERE TO BRING BACK A
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PERSONAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY WHICH THEY MIGHT

FIND GRATIFYING. AT THIS JUNCTURE, WHAT THEY WOULD FIND
GRATIFYING IS NOT WHAT WE WOULD WANT THE SECRETARY TO SAY.
IF THE MESSAGE OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTTEL IS INTENDED
TO ENCOURAGE THE SAG TO PRESS FORWARD WITH INDEPENDENCE IN
NAMIBIA, INCREASE PRESSURES ON IAN SMITH AND STEP UP THE PACE
OF REFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA, I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST BE SAID
IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL POLICY STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN
AFRICA.

3. IF STATEMENT TO WORLD PRESS PROPOSED PARA 4 REFTTEL WERE
ARRANGED TO LINK PRESENCE OF AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WITH
SECRETARY'S EXPRESSION OF REGRET AT HIS INABILITY TO VISIT
OR MEET WITH MACHEL AND KHAMA, THEN MY PRESENCE WOULD SEEM
INAPPROPRIATE (AND DISPLEASING TO SAG) IF THERE WERE NO
SIMILAR MENTION OF VORSTER (WHICH I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND).
BOWDLER

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